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30166	7590	05/04/2005	EXAMINER	
WOMBLE CARLYLE SANDRIDGE & RICE PLLC			NGUYEN, TUYEN T	
300 N. GREENE STREET			ART UNIT	
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GREENSBORO, NC 27401			2832	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Revised Associate Power of Attorney Practice - 37 CFR 1.32
(Applies to Associate Powers of Attorney filed on or after June 25, 2004)

This is in response to the Associate Power of Attorney, filed 4/26/05, which was on or after June 25, 2004, the effective date of a rule change eliminating Associate Power of Attorney practice (37 CFR 1.34(b) was eliminated). See Revision of Power of Attorney and Assignment Practice, 69 Fed. Reg. 29865 (May 26, 2004); 1283 Off. Gaz. 148 (Jun. 22, 2004).

Although the paper has been placed in the file, the names of the patent practitioners listed on the Associate Power of Attorney have not been made of record.

A registered patent practitioner may take action in a patent application on behalf of a patent applicant, if he or she is authorized by the patent applicant or the assignee of the patent applicant without being of record in Office records. See 37 CFR 1.34. When acting in a representative capacity, the registered patent practitioner must provide their registration number and name along with his or her signature. A registered patent practitioner is only required to be of record in a patent application in which an executed declaration has been filed (i.e., have a power of attorney in compliance with 37 CFR 1.32(b)) to:

- (1) sign a change of address,
- (2) expressly abandon a patent application without filing a continuation,
- (3) sign a terminal disclaimer, and
- (4) sign a power to inspect.

In addition, a registered patent practitioner who is not of record may act on behalf of the assignee, when an assignee complies with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

For additional information regarding the elimination of Associate Power of Attorney practice, see the questions and answers posted at:
<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/poafaqs.htm>.